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S. G. Miller to Edwin or George Miller (11 May 1863)

Susan G. Miller

Edwin Miller

George Miller

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I they quieted down & I have heard of no anticipated battle among the bears since. When you write you need not mention this, but if we live to meet I will give you a full history. I am almost crazy to hear from you & if it be possible, try to write me among you twice a week. If I

My precious Child, don't fear very soon now I shall start in search of you. In my next letter my dear Child I will send you Indian Rubber. Our relations,

to write but to express fears & anxieties. — all send much love. Poor Uncle Espho I fear is going to which is anything but interesting or comforting. I suffer much with that expenditure on his nose. It has — ing to go, yet as long as there is any hope of your given rapidly since my coming. Give my love to existence. I feel where I shall day cannot see your dear Father & Mother & kind regards to all friends.

irresistible desire to send you a message. To may God bless protect guide & comfort you, is the the time seems long since since receiving a constantly prayer of your loving Mother, J. E. Miller. letter from any of you, & the knowledge of fast Fish such love to you all. Remember me to Father. gathering dangers around, had for the last few God bless you my precious Child I do so long to see days so increased my anxieties about you — you all.

that I feel sometimes like I was smothering to death. The news papers reports from our Army before Suffolk are so encaged & the 'situation' as I can learn, so critical, that I don't know the eyes of all my dear ones are more closed in the sleep that horrors are soaking. Did I not know it was so, I could pray with a hearty good will for my Master, to take me from this state of dreadful anxiety. I have hoped that you would all try to write me often, if it was only a line, & can only imagine the worst of evils as the cause

of your not writing. Mr. Witherspoon promised to come for me if anything evil threatened you but promises are not much regarded now-a-days, even by Ministers of the Gospel; but really he promised so earnestly, I could not but hope, & have some faith in his promise. I gave him some envelopes & paper too to write on, but forgot to give him any stamps. I hear so many tales of the moving of troops that I am not certain where even to direct a letter. Yesterday it was told by a man just returned from Richmond that re-enforcements were rapidly going to Genl Lee & that he was preparing to advance into the enemies Country. Where these re-enforcements were coming from, no one could tell. We know but little worth in regard to the recent battle near Fredericksburg; the deeds of our noble Missions are ever the last coming to light. From the little that I can see, they must have suffered very much at Fredericksburg. I regret to see the Washington City from New Orleans suffered such loss. John Valentine was among the wounded. I see where the enemy had been repulsed at Suffolk on several occasions, & the Virginians & Alabamians mentioned but nothing said about our Brigs.

and take if for granted it was engaged on one of the
occasions it said, the enemy were driven back
but no mention as to by whom it was done.
It was rumored yesterday, that Genl Kan Don
had been killed in Tenn. The Govt can grant it
may not be true. If it should be so, I fear we have
met with serious disaster there. The situation
in our State & Tenn is anything but pleasant
to contemplate. I dread to hear the next news
from there. I hope you all have been able to hear
something from home by persons coming
on to the Army, as there is now I presume
no mails in our region of Country. Our poor
relations & friends, I fear have fared badly.
My heart sickens to think of them. How long
oh how long, is this dreadful state of things to
last? Away here where there are none but fan-
atic hearts, none whose opinions are more to
be relied on than my own, I feel almost in
despair. I think most of the men in Virginia
should wear petticoats. I wrote you Pa of an
alarm we had here last Sunday week. On Wed-
nesday it was repeated, but of course there was
no foundation this time. The people had behaved
so much like fools on Sunday & Monday, that
after they heard the Abolitionists had been run off

and they thought all danger over they set to
work telling tales on each other about being
frightened, until the whole country was in
a perfect panic & there bid fair to be a few
'fisticuffs' to prove the valor on both sides -
when just at the height of excitement rumors
were sent by the "most reliable" persons saying
the Abolitionists had crossed the River at Par-
tersonville, when such a time I never exactly
saw. The men were hurrying about like
the last day of intellect had departed, the
woman screaming & almost having fits &
no one with boldness or energy enough to go
& find out if there was any reason for all this
hustle. As I had had some little experience
in these alarms, I soon felt satisfied there
was really no cause for it, & tried to persuade
my Aunt's family to think as I did; but no; it
was obliged to be true, & how they went until
my Aunt took to bed sick, the others were about
'lame' & after spending all vocabulary in trying
to comfort & soothe Aunt, I sat down to
work, heartily wishing I was with "the line
of battle drawn up before Suffolk." By
the next day some one had come from Carter-
ville saying there had been no gunshots there